

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Withdrawn) A production process for a water-absorbing agent, which comprises the step of blending 100 parts by weight of water-absorbent resin particles (A) and 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of a cationic polymer compound (B) together,

wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) is obtained by a process including the step of crosslinking a cationic polymer with a crosslinking agent of which the amount is 0.01 to 10 weight % of the cationic polymer, and

wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) has a water solubility of 70 to 10 weight % if the cationic polymer compound (B) is obtained from an ethylenimine monomer, otherwise the cationic polymer compound (B) has a water solubility of 100 to 10 weight %.

38. (Withdrawn) A production process for a water-absorbing agent, which comprises the step of blending 100 parts by weight of water-absorbent resin particles (A) and 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of a cationic polymer compound (B) together,

wherein the water-absorbent resin particles (A) exhibit an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP) and a gel layer liquid permeation rate of not more than 800 seconds under a load (FRUP), and

wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) has a water solubility of 100 to 10 weight %.

39. (Withdrawn) A production process for a water-absorbing agent, which comprises the step of blending 100 parts by weight of water-absorbent resin particles (A) and 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of a cationic polymer compound (B) together,

wherein the water-absorbent resin particles (A) exhibit an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP) and a saline flow conductivity of not less than $20 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC), and

wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) has a water solubility of 100 to 10 weight %.

40. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent, which is obtained by the production process for a water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 37.

41. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent, which is obtained by the production process for a water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 38.

42. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent, which is obtained by the production process for a water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 39.

43. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent, which comprises water-absorbent resin particles (A) and a cationic polymer compound (B), wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) is substantially ionically bonded to the water-absorbent resin particles (A),

with the water-absorbing agent being characterized by exhibiting a free swelling capacity of not less than 23 g/g (GV), an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP), and a saline flow conductivity of not less than $50 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC).

44. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 43, which exhibits a gel deformation of not more than 12.5 cm under a short-time load (0.5 hrPT).

45. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 43, which exhibits a ball burst strength of not less than 80 gf (BBS).

46. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 43, wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamidines, polyvinylamines or salts thereof and partially hydrolyzed poly(N-vinylformamides) or salts thereof.

47. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 43, which further comprises an inorganic powder.

48. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent, which comprises a polymer obtained by a process including the steps of polymerizing and then cross linking a monomer including acrylic acid and/or a salt thereof,

with the water-absorbing agent being characterized by exhibiting a free swelling capacity of not less than 23 g/g (GV), an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP), and a gel deformation of not more than 12.5 cm under a load (16 hrPT).

49. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, which exhibits a deterioration of ball burst strength of not more than 40% (DBBS).

50. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, which exhibits a gel deformation deterioration of not more than 3.5 cm under a load with the passage of time (ΔPT).

51. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, which comprises water-absorbent resin particles (A) and a cationic polymer compound (B).

52. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 51, wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamidines, polyvinylamines or salts thereof and partially hydrolyzed poly(N-vinylformamides) or salts thereof.

53. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, which further comprises an inorganic powder.

54. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent, which comprises a polymer obtained by a process including the steps of polymerizing and then crosslinking a monomer including acrylic acid and/or a salt thereof,

with the water-absorbing agent being characterized by exhibiting a free swelling capacity of not less than 23 g/g (GV), an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP), and a 16 hours' ball burst strength of not less than 80 gf (16 hrBBS).

55. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, which exhibits a deterioration of ball burst strength of not more than 40% (DBBS).

56. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, which exhibits a gel deformation deterioration of not more than 3.5 cm under a load with the passage of time (ΔPT).

57. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, which comprises water-absorbent resin particles (A) and a cationic polymer compound (B).

58. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 57, wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamidines, polyvinylamines or salts thereof, and partially hydrolyzed poly(N-vinylformamides) or salts thereof.

59. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, which further comprises an inorganic powder.

60. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent, which comprises a polymer obtained by a process including the steps of polymerizing and then crosslinking a monomer including acrylic acid and/or a salt thereof,

with the water-absorbing agent being characterized by exhibiting a free swelling capacity of not less than 23 g/g (GV), a gel deformation of not more than 12.5 cm under a short-time load (0.5 hrPT), and a gel deformation deterioration of not more than 3.5 cm under a load with the passage of time (ΔPT).

61. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, which exhibits an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP).

62. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, which exhibits a gel deformation of not more than 12.5 cm under a load (16 hrPT).

63. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, which exhibits a 16 hours' ball burst strength of not less than 80 gf (16 hrBBS).

64. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, which comprises water-absorbent resin particles (A) and a cationic polymer compound (B).

65. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 64, wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamidines, polyvinylamines or salts thereof and partially hydrolyzed poly(N-vinylformamides) or salts thereof.

66. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, which further comprises an inorganic powder.

67. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent, which comprises a polymer obtained by a process including the steps of polymerizing and then crosslinking a monomer including acrylic acid and/or a salt thereof,

with the water-absorbing agent being characterized by exhibiting a free swelling capacity of not less than 23 g/g (GV), a ball burst strength of not less than 80 gf (BBS), and a deterioration of ball burst strength of not more than 40% (DBBS).

68. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, which exhibits an absorption capacity of not less than 20 g/g under a load of 4.9 kPa (AAP).

69. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, which exhibits a gel deformation of not more than 12.5 cm under a load (16 hrPT).

70. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, which exhibits a 16 hours' ball burst strength of not less than 80 gf (16 hrBBS).

71. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, which comprises water-absorbent resin particles (A) and a cationic polymer compound (B).

72. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 71, wherein the cationic polymer compound (B) includes at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyamidines, polyvinylamines or salts thereof, and partially hydrolyzed poly(N-vinylformamides) or salts thereof.

73. (Previously presented) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, which further comprises an inorganic powder.

74. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 40.

75. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 41.

76. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 42.

77. (Withdrawn) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 43.

78. (Previously presented) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 48.

79. (Previously presented) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 54.

80. (Previously presented) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 60.

81. (Previously presented) A water-absorbent structure, which comprises the water-absorbing agent as recited in claim 67.

82. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, further comprising a cationic polymer (B).

83. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, further comprising a cationic polymer (B).

84. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, further comprising a cationic polymer (B).

85. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, further comprising a cationic polymer (B).

86. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 48, wherein said water-absorbing agent exhibits a saline flow conductivity of not less than $50 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC).

87. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 54, wherein said water-absorbing agent exhibits a saline flow conductivity of not less than $50 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC).

88. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 60, wherein said water-absorbing agent exhibits a saline flow conductivity of not less than $50 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC).

89. (New) A water-absorbing agent according to claim 67, wherein said water-absorbing agent exhibits a saline flow conductivity of not less than $50 (10^{-7} \times \text{cm}^3 \times \text{s} \times \text{g}^{-1})$ (SFC).